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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/622,995	07/18/2003	Edita Tejnil	42P8843D	3049
7:	590 02/27/2004		EXAM	INER
George Chen Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman LLP			ROSASCO, STEPHEN D	
Seventh Floor	•		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
12400 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90025-1030			1756	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of: 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. Attachment(s) 1) ☑ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) ☑ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/18/03. 10 ☐ Other:				$(\land$
Examinor Stephen Rosasco 1756		Application No.	Applicant(s)	
Stephen Roasoco 1758 17	Office Action Summany		TEJNIL, EDITA	
The MALING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address → Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MALING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. THE MALING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. If the period for relative period does it less than thiny (30) days, a relative state of (10) days, as relative period allower primitum of thinty (30) days will be considered timely, after 50 (10) days, as relative period allower primitum of thinty (30) days will be considered timely, and the state of the communication. If the period for relative to reproduce their manufactorial period will appear and will represent (30) days will be considered timely. Failure to reproduce the maling date of this communication. Failure to reproduce the maling date of this communication. Failure to reproduce the maling date of this communication. Failure to reproduce the maling date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any sense patient are adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.74(b). Status 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/18/03. 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 16-21 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) 16-22 is/are placed. Claim(s) 16-22 is/are placed. Claim(s) 16-22 is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) 16-22 is/are placed to. 8) Claim(s) 16-22 is/are placed to. 8) Claim(s) 16-22 is/are placed to. 8) Claim(s) 16-22 is/are placed to. 10) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 July 2003 is/are: a IM accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 9) The drawing(s) filed on 18 July 2003 is/are: a IM accepted or b) objected to by the Exa	Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit	
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extended of the may be available under the provides or 30° CR1 1.13(e). In no event, however, may a reply be timely field after SX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. If the protein of new pay securios does not be set than they gold days, a rejet year with the statutary minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. If the protein of new pay securios does not be set to response the communication. Failure to reply with the sat or extended principle of the reply will be statutary minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. Failure to reply with the sat or extended principle of the reply will be principle. Failure to reply with the sat or extended principle of the reply will be principle. Failure to reply with the sat or extended principle of the reply will be principle. Failure to reply with the sat or extended principle of the reply will be principle. Failure to reply with the sat or extended state the mailing date of this communication. Failure to reply with the sat or extended the mine membral after the mailing date of this communication. Failure to reply with the sat or extended the mine membral after the mailing date of this communication, even if ferrely filed, may reduce any states are satisfied. All Sections of the satisfied on the mailing date of the communication, even if ferrely filed, may reduce any states are satisfied. The satisfied the mail the satisfied on the principle of the principle of the mailing date of the communication. Application of Claims 4) Claim(s) 16-21 is/are pending in the application. 4) Claim(s) 16-21 is/are allowed. Claim(s) 16-21 is/are objected to by the Examiner. 10) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) Action of the satisfied on 18-July 2003 is	The MAILING DATE of this communication			
Education of time may be contable under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.13(8): In no event, however, may a rapily be timely filed in the period for reply specified above is less than they (30) days, a rapily within the statutary minimum of they (30) days, will be considered timely. If the period for reply specified above is less than they (30) days, a rapily within the statutary minimum of they (30) days, a rapily within the statutary minimum of they (30) days. A reply within the statutary minimum of they (30) days. A reply within the statutary minimum of they (30) days will be considered timely. If No part of reply specified above, the machine statutary period and they will be statutary minimum of they (30) days. A reply within the statutary minimum of they (30) days will be considered timely. If No part of reply specified above is the statutary minimum of they will be statutary minimum of they (30) days. A reply within they will be statutary minimum of they (30) days will be considered timely. If No part of they will be statutary minimum of they (30) days will be considered timely. If No part of they will be statutary minimum of they (30) days will be considered timely. If No part of they will be statutary minimum of they (30) days will be considered timely. If No part of they will be statutary minimum of they (30) days will be considered timely. If No part of they will be statutary minimum of they will be statutary minimum of they (30) days will be considered timely. If No part of they will be statutary minimum of they (30) days will be considered to be statutary minimum of they will be statutary minimum of they (30) days will be considered timely. If No part of the minimum of they will be statutary minimum of they (30) days will be considered to be statutary minimum of they (30). If No part of the minimum of the minimum of they will be statutary minimum of the mi	Period for Reply	ears on the cover sheet with the c	orrespondence address	
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \(\frac{7/18/03}{2} \) This action is \(\text{FINAL}. \) 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under \(Ex \) parte \(Quayte, 1935 \) C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4 Claim(s) \(\frac{16-21}{16-21} \) is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5 Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6 Claim(s) is/are rejected. 7 Claim(s) is/are rejected. 7 Claim(s) is/are rejected. 7 Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9 The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10 X The drawing(s) filed on \(\frac{18 \) July \(2003 \) is/are: \(\frac{1}{2} \) Accepted or \(\frac{1}{2} \) Disposition is objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11 The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. \(\frac{1}{2} \) 119 Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. \(\frac{1}{2} \) 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All \(b) \) Some \(^c \) One of: Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2 Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 2 Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). Paper No(c)Mail Date 5 Notice of Tertomaton Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-149 or PTO/SB08) One	 IHE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.13 after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply if NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period we Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing 	i6(a). In no event, however, may a reply be time within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days ill apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from cause the application to become ABANDONE	nely filed s will be considered timely. the mailing date of this communic. D (35 U.S.C. 8.133)	ation.
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10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 July 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. Attachment(s) 1) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. Paper No(s)/Mail Date. 1) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Solution of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) The drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement of the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement of the drawing(s) is objected to by the drawing see 37 CFR 1.21(d). 10 Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. 11 Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. 12 Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. 13 Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. 15 Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Solution of Information Patent Application (PTO-152) Solution of Information Patent Application (PTO-152) Solution of Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Solution of Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Solution of Information Disclosure Statem				
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Application/Control Number: 10/622,995

Art Unit: 1756

Detailed Action

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reich et al. (5,900,340).

The claimed invention is directed to a method comprising: providing design data and design rules for a layout;

converting said design data into primary features for a set of mask patterns; generating assist features for said primary features checking whether said design rules are violated;

repeating said converting and said generating until said design rules are no longer violated;

verifying whether said mask patterns can be combined to produce said layout; adjusting said primary features and said assist features until said layout is produced; and obtaining final mask data for said layout.

Reich et al. teach a method for adding subresolution assist features to a semiconductor design to correct for proximity effects in the semiconductor design comprising the steps of:

- A) performing a growing function on a base shape by a first amount to produce a first shape;
- B) performing the growing function on the base shape by a second amount to produce a second shape;
- C) subtracting the second shape from the first shape to produce the subresolution assist features; and

Application/Control Number: 10/622,995

Art Unit: 1756

D) unioning the base shape and the subresolution assist features to form a final shape, wherein the final shape including the subresolution assist features formed adjacent to the base shape.

Reich et al. further teaches the method comprising:

- E) generating an altered semiconductor design file containing the final shape;
- F) creating a set of one or more lithographic masks from the altered semiconductor design file; and
- G) fabricating a plurality of integrated circuits from the set of one or more lithographic masks.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mansfield et al. (6,421,820) or Chang et al. (6,370,679).

Mansfield et al. teach (see claim 39) a method of modifying the design of a photomask, the design of the photomask including a plurality of shapes, each shape being adjacent to at least one neighboring shape, the method comprising: (a) measuring a distance between a shape and a neighboring shape; (b) determining a normalized space count by dividing the measured distance by a normalized space constant and taking an integer value; (c)

Application/Control Number: 10/622,995

Art Unit: 1756

determining a correct number of assist features by subtracting one from the normalized space count; (d) determining a normalized space by dividing the measured distance by the normalized space count; (e) adding a number of assist features to the design of the photomask in a space substantially between the shape and the neighboring shape, wherein the assist features each have a size and placement that are determined based on the normalized space. (f) repeating steps (a) through (e) for each of the plurality of shapes in the design; (g) measuring a distance between a designed shape and a neighboring shape or assist feature; (h) generating a modified shape by moving edges of the designed shape based on measurement performed in step (g); (i) repeating steps (f) through (h) for each of the plurality of shapes in the design.

Chang et al. teach a method of generating proximity corrections for an integrated circuit layout, wherein the data describing the integrated circuit layout comprises a hierarchical structure including a plurality of layout cells, the method comprising: providing the integrated circuit layout design as a first input;

providing a particular set of correction criteria as a second input;

analyzing the integrated circuit layout to identify features of the layout that meet the particular set of correction criteria;

generating proximity correction data in response to the particular set of correction criteria for the features that meet the particular set of correction criteria;

and providing a first program data wherein the first program data comprises the proximity correction data configured in a hierarchical structure that substantially preserves the plurality of layout cells in the hierarchical structure of the integrated circuit layout, wherein providing the first program data comprises: generating a plurality of delta planes corresponding to the plurality of cells wherein each delta plane comprises data representative of the difference between a

correction plane of the cell corresponding to the delta plane and the delta planes corresponding to the children cells of the cell corresponding to the delta plane.

And wherein the proximity correction data comprises data corresponding to the addition of serifs to the layout.

Chang et al. also teach that the several known OPC software implemented products available that adjust mask definitions to include OPC features. have a number of limitations in terms of correctness, speed, data volume, and verification of the resultant OPC corrected mask design. For, the current products do not maintain the true hierarchical data format of the original mask design when the OPC features are added to the mask design. These products must first expand the original mask design to some type of a flattened data format prior to compensating by adding correction features. This causes the size of the resultant corrected design data file to increase several fold, and thus slow down the process of OPC. Further, and more importantly, because they do not maintain the original true hierarchical data format of the mask design, it is extremely difficult and time consuming to verify currently known OPC corrected masks using conventional verification tools which require the same hierarchical data format as the original mask.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Rosasco whose telephone number is 571-272-1389. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Huff, can be reached on 571-272-1385. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

For general Information call (571-272-1700).

S. Rosasco Primary Examiner

muser

Art Unit 1756

S.Rosasco 2/19/04